

FINANCIAL SERVICES REPUBLICAN MORNING CLIPS 5.6.2010

Wall Street Journal: "U.S. Senators Seek ATM Fee Cap at 50 Cents ... Chalk up ATM fees on the list of amendments that may make their way into the bank-reform bill under debate in Washington."

Wall Street Journal: "SEC Examines Berkshire's Disclosure on Burlington ... The Securities and Exchange Commission is examining the disclosures Berkshire Hathaway Inc. made about its \$26 billion purchase of Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp. railroad, said people familiar with the matter."

Wall Street Journal: "Bankers Expect Megabuyout ... Across Wall Street, bankers are back to speculating about "The Big One.""

Wall Street Journal: "Freddie Asks for \$10.6 Billion ... Freddie Mac says it will need an injection of \$10.6 billion from the U.S. Treasury after posting a \$6.7 billion loss for the first quarter, as the weak housing market continued to burn a hole in the company's balance sheet."

Wall Street Journal: "Blankfein Defends Goldman's Ethics ... Lloyd C. Blankfein continued to defend Goldman Sachs Group Inc.'s reputation on Wednesday in comments to some of the firm's wealthiest clients."

Wall Street Journal: "A Fannie Mae Political Reckoning ... One sign that the White House financial reform is less potent

than its advertising claims is that it doesn't even attempt to reform the two companies at the heart of the housing mania and panic, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac."

Wall Street Journal: "Derivatives Clearinghouses Are No Magic Bullet ... As the Senate finalizes its financial reform legislation, a consensus is developing that if we could just get derivatives traded through a centralized clearinghouse we could avoid a financial crisis like the one we just went through."

Washington Post: "Financial overhaul bill gets bipartisan push in Senate ... In a rare show of bipartisanship, the Senate on Wednesday overwhelmingly approved an amendment to the financial regulatory bill aimed at ensuring that taxpayers never again be on the hook for bailing out collapsed banks and investment firms."

Washington Post: "Former Bear Stearns executives blame collapse on 'self-fulfilling prophecy' ... Former executives of Bear Stearns, testifying before a panel investigating the causes of the financial crisis, pointed elsewhere Wednesday in assigning blame for the near-collapse of their firm in March 2008 and the resulting chaos in financial markets."

Washington Post: "Republicans and Democrats continue to agree on FinReg ... You expect a hard-fought compromise between two polarized parties on a high-profile issue to involve difficult concessions and serious changes. But the deal that Richard Shelby and Chris Dodd struck on the too-big-to-fail section of the financial-regulation bill doesn't have either one."

NY Times: "Senate Liberals Push for Strict Financial Rules ... Liberal Democrats in the Senate, emboldened by a wave of populism, are trying to make financial regulatory legislation far tougher on Wall Street, potentially restricting or breaking up the biggest banks and financial companies."

NY Times: "Was It Really a Bubble? ... Adjusted for inflation, residential property values were still higher at the end of 2009 than 10 years ago. This fact raises the possibility that at least part of the housing boom was an efficient response to market fundamentals."

USA Today: "Wall Street rumbling felt in elections ... Legislation that would impose tougher regulations on Wall Street is moving through Congress slowly but is quickly becoming an issue in dozens of competitive congressional races across the country."

USA Today: "Senate votes to prohibit taxpayer money for Wall Street bailouts ... The Senate voted Wednesday to prohibit the use of taxpayer money for any more Wall Street rescues but set up a mechanism where the government would have to front the money, even if only temporarily, to liquidate a "too big to fail" financial institution."

Washington Times: "Greece says bailout is only hope ... Greece's only hope of avoiding bankruptcy is to take money from a joint European Union and International Monetary Fund rescue package, the government said Thursday during a heated Parliamentary debate overshadowed by the deaths of three people during protests against spending cuts."

The Hill: "Geithner blames financial meltdown on lack of regulator reach ... Treasury secretary tells inquiry commission that regulators didn't have oversight over non-bank financial players."

The Hill: "Rifts emerge among Dems on consumer financial regulations ... Rifts are emerging among Senate Democrats over how much power the federal government should have under the Wall Street overhaul bill to pre-empt state consumer regulations."

Politico: "Boost for labor in Wall St. bill ... For years, Democratic-backed labor unions have been trying to get behind enemy lines, so to speak, by helping to put more union-friendly representatives on corporate boards as a way to shape policies from the inside."